

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 157708
ORIGIN STR-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 STRE-00 /016 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

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PASS DORAL COOPER

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 9281 ACTION SECSTATE
INFO LAGOS JUNE 19

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 09281

USMTN

ACTION STR

STR PASS CODEL

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: MTN, ETRD, NI

SUBJECT: US/NIGERIA MTN BILATERAL

1. SUMMARY: MTN DEL (GRAEF) MET WITH NIGERIAN MTN DEL
(ADEWAKUN) ON JUNE 14 TO DISCUSS STATUS OF NIGERIAN
RESPONSE TO US REQUESTS. ADEWAKUN INDICATED THAT HE HAD
FORWARDED A RECOMMENDATION TO CUSTOM OFFICIALS IN LAGOS
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TO CONSIDER FAVORABLY US REQUESTS FOR VEGETABLE PROTEIN
CONCENTRATES AND ISOLATES (BTNS 21.07 & 35.04). WITH
REGARD TO OTHER REQUESTS ADEWAKUN PRESENTED STEREOTYPED
LDC ARGUMENT AGAINST BINDINGS AND REQUESTED CREDIT FOR AN
INFORMAL METHOD OF DUTY EXEMPTION PRACTICES BY NIGERIA.
MTN DEL ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND NIGERIAN DEL
OF ITS OBLIGATION TO NOTIFY THE GATT OF TRADE RESTRICTION

MEASURES INTRODUCED IN APRIL. END SUMMARY.

2. THE PRODUCTS SPECIFIC DISCUSSION OF US REQUEST TO NIGERIA REVEALED THE FOLLOWING:

- A. BTN 84.12, DOMESTIC AIR CONDITIONERS; ADEWAKUN INDICATED NO POSSIBILITY OF A CONCESSION SINCE THERE WAS LOCAL ASSEMBLY IN NIGERIA.
- B. 48.01, KRAFT PAPER AND PAPER BOARD; LOCAL PRODUCTION OF THIS ITEM IN NIGERIA PRECLUDED DUTY REDUCTION, ON THE OTHER HAND DUTIES ON PULP COULD BE LIBERALIZED.
- C. 84.18, REPLACEMENT - ENGINE PARTS FOR EARTH MOVING EQUIPMENT; NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT PRACTICE WAS TO WAIVE DUTIES FOR THESE PARTS. ADEWAKUN UNDERTOOK TO SUBMIT US REQUEST FOR NEW TARIFF POSITION FOR RECONSIDERATION.
- D. 15.02B, INEDIBLE TALLOW; CURRENT PRACTICE WAS TO WAIVE THE DUTY OF TALLOW AS INPUT TO THE SOAP INDUSTRY.
- E. 21.07 AND 35.04, VEGETABLE PROTEINS AND ISOLATES; SEE PARAGRAPH 1 ABOVE.

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3. WITH RESPECT TO BINDINGS ADEWAKUN INDICATED THAT NIGERIA AS A DEVELOPING COUNTRY WAS IN NO POSITION TO BIND EITHER CURRENT OR REDUCED TARIFFS AND REQUESTED INSTEAD THAT IT RECEIVE CREDIT FOR ITS PRACTICE OF WAIVING DUTIES WHEN NECESSARY. MTN DEL COUNTERED IT'S ARGUMENTS AND POINTED TO THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE XVIII TO DEMONSTRATE FLEXIBILITY OF CURRENT GATT WITH REGARD TO BINDINGS. ADEWAKUN ALSO ASKED THAT US GIVE IT CREDIT FOR RECENT NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT INCENTIVES TO BOOST AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND PROVIDED MTN DEL WITH A COPY OF THESE INCENTIVES. AMONG OTHER MEASURES THESE INCENTIVES INCLUDE THE ABOLITION OF IMPORT DUTIES ON TRACTORS AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT AND THE REMOVAL OF IMPORT DUTIES ON RAW MATERIAL FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF LIVESTOCK FEED.

4. MTN DEL POINTED TO THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A CLEAR RESPONSE FROM NIGERIA TO US REQUEST AS CLOSE TO JUNE 20 AS POSSIBLE NOTING THAT ON JUNE 20 THE US WOULD BEGIN A REVIEW OF IT'S MTN OFFER IN LIGHT OF JULY 15 DEADLINE FOR THE MTN. ADEWAKUN RESPONDED THAT NIGERIA COULD NOT BE IN A POSITION TO EVALUATE MTN RESULTS OR TO RESPOND DEFINI-

TIVELY TO THE US REQUEST BY JULY 15. HE STATED THAT HE PERSONALLY WOULD HAVE TO GO TO LAGOS TO PREPARE A RESPONSE AND THAT THIS WAS IMPOSSIBLE BEFORE JULY 15.

5. COMMENT: MTN DEL CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT ADEWAKUN IS DEALING LARGELY ON AN AD HOC BASIS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS FROM LAGOS. US REQUESTS ON TALLOW, VEG. PROTEINS, AND SPARE PARTS APPEAR CONSISTENT WITH NIGERIAS DEVELOPMENT INTERESTS AND WORTHY OF FMG CONSIDERATION. MTN DEL THEREFORE REQUESTS AMEMBASSY LAGOS ASSISTANCE IN CONVEYING TO APPROPRIATE FMG OFFICIALS OF THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH US VIEWS APPROACHING JULY 15 DEADLINE (STATE 140975). IN ADDITION REQUEST WASHINGTON AND EMBASSY ASSESSMENT OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DUTY ELIMINATION ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AG MACHINERY AND ANIMAL FEED INPUTS. END COMMENT.

6. DRAFTED BY GRAEF. CULBERT. UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 21 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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